



# FloorPrep

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Legislative Digest

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

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J.C. Watts, Jr.  
Chairman  
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

**H.R. 603—Airline Disaster Relief Act**

**H.R. 661—Conditionally Prohibiting Supersonic Jet Operations in the United States**

**H.R. 669—Peace Corps Reauthorization Act**



## **H.R. 603—Airline Disaster Relief Act**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider H.R. 603 as its first order of business today. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted an open rule that provides one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Transportation Committee. The rule accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

**Summary:** H.R. 603 clarifies that the 1920 Death on the High Seas Act (DOHSA) does not apply to aviation accidents. The measure guarantees equal legal standing to families of the victims of an airline accident regardless of where the accident occurs, whether on land or ocean. Finally, the bill applies to civil actions commenced after the date of enactment and all pending cases if the court of original jurisdiction has not yet rendered a final decision. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Sherwood; the Transportation Committee reported H.R. 603 by voice vote on February 24, 1999.

**Views:** The Republican leadership supports passage of the bill. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time.

**Amendments:** At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was unaware of any amendments to H.R. 603.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #5, February 26, 1999.



## **H.R. 661—Conditionally Prohibiting Supersonic Jet Operations in the United States**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider H.R. 661 after it completes consideration of H.R. 603. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted an open rule that provides one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Transportation Committee. The rule accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

**Summary:** H.R. 661 bans supersonic aircraft (specifically the Concorde) from operating in the United States if the European Parliament enacts regulations to ban most U.S.-based stage-three “hushkitted” and re-engineered aircraft. The European Union (EU) recently proposed regulations—which may be soon considered by the European Parliament—to restrict the use in Europe of certain aircraft that have installed either a new engine (known as a “re-engined” aircraft) or a hushkit (a measure to quiet existing aircraft) to meet the highest current stage-three noise reduction standards. The European restriction would apply only to U.S. aircraft and engines even though, in some cases, they are quieter than their European counterparts that would not be restricted under the regulation. A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time. The bill was introduced by Messrs. Oberstar, Shuster, Duncan, Lipinski, and Horn; the Transportation Committee reported H.R. 661 by voice vote on February 24, 1999.

**Views:** The Republican leadership supports passage of the bill. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time.

**Amendments:** At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was unaware of any amendments to H.R. 661.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #5, February 26, 1999.



## **H.R. 669—Peace Corps Reauthorization Act**

**Floor Situation:** The House is expected to consider H.R. 669 after it completes consideration of H.R. 661. On February 25, the House adopted an open rule that provides one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the International Relations Committee. The rule accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone

votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

**Summary:** H.R. 669 authorizes appropriations for the Peace Corps for FY 2000-2003, increasing its budget to swell the number of volunteers from the current level of 6,700 to 10,000 over the next four years. Specifically, the bill authorizes \$270 million for FY 2000, \$298 million for FY 2001, \$327 million for FY 2002, and \$365 million for FY 2003.

Last October, Congress approved a \$241 million budget for the Peace Corps, which will bring the number of volunteers to 7,400 by the end of FY 1999—the largest number in 25 years. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 669 will result in additional discretionary outlays of \$1.2 billion over the next five years. The bill was introduced by Mr. Campbell; the International Relations Committee reported the bill by voice vote on February 11, 1999.

**Views:** The Republican Leadership supports passage of H.R. 669. The Clinton Administration has expressed support for the bill.

**Amendments:** At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following amendments to H.R. 669:

**Mr. Sanford** may offer an amendment to freeze the authorization for the Peace Corps at the current level of \$241 million for FYs 2000-2003. **Staff Contact: Scott English, x5-3176**

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #5, February 26, 1999.



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